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ABSTRACT

This book provides architects, interior designers, developers, and child-care professionals with detailed information on the planning and design of child care centers. Part 1 examines the current state of child care in the United States and offers an overall philosophical concert--the spirit of place--as the framework for all center design. Part 2 explores the issues centers typically encounter when starting a design project: formation of a design team, establishing a program, evaluating a site and possible existing building, choosing between new construction and renovation, doing preliminary layouts for the center on a specific site, and honoring the key ingredients of children's group room design. Part 3 addresses specific aspects of design in greater detail, i.e., sound, light, color, finishes, furnishings, building systems, and windows, doors, and security. Part 4 examines design elements unique to different parts of the building and site, such as the children's group rooms; areas for staff, parents, and the community; and outdoor play. It further describes two recently completed centers whose design is based on the residential core model as a possible prototype for child care center design. Appendices contain questions to ask prospective architects; a comparison between construction manager versus general contractor; a summary of low-toxic building materials; and formulas for color mixing. (GR)

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